

## **Executive Director's Report — February 16, 2017**

Thank you very much Chair Wasserman.

I wanted to start by talking about how beautiful today was meant to be. During the past four days we have wore sunglasses, played tag on our lawns, and remembered how much we enjoyed life outdoors before the atmospheric rivers were unleashed on California. And, while we think constantly of those who have been hurt or displaced by the vast amounts of rain that we've experienced in such a short amount of time, we also need to be thankful for it and take advantage of the opportunity it affords us. We need to prepare for a consistently changing relationship with water, whether it comes from the side or from above. As the great Roger Miller, the King of the Road, once noted, "some people walk in the rain, and others just get wet." Walking is preferable.

### **Budget and Staff**

While our first quarter spending totals are in and we're close to closing the second quarter, we still haven't finalized, with DGS, our first quarter budget results. But we're trying.

Also, I'm very happy to let you know that we have promoted Lindy Lowe, our Chief Planner, to a Career Executive Assignment position (commonly known as a CEA position). This promotion signals that our Planning Unit is being led by an individual classified in the topmost segment of the State's civil service system. Next up for us will be to reclassify the head of our Administrative unit, Sharon

Louie.

## **Policy**

I want to let you know of two emergency permits that Chair Wasserman has approved during the past few days.

The first request, from the CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife last week, was to authorize CDFW to make further emergency repairs to its levee system in Novato at the same Burdell Unit of the Petaluma Marshes Wildlife Area on which CDFW worked last month. The levee breach occurred during a recent extreme high tide event during which water overtopped the system and had to be closed to prevent brackish water from flowing into and affecting a freshwater wetland located behind the levee. CDFW is working with Jaime Michaels of your staff to complete and submit a permit application for the work and receive a formal permit with conditions.

The second emergency permit request arrived last Friday from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps let us know of its intent to issue an emergency permit to authorize emergency repairs of the levee around the Sunrise Duck Club, located in Suisun Marsh, Solano County, California. The levee around the island has overtopped in eight different areas, and requires approximately 2,235 linear feet of needed repairs to prevent flooding at the duck club. While the levee has not been breached, the club needed to begin repairs to the levees as soon as possible. Consistent with BCDC's emergency marsh development permit practices, the Sunrise Duck Club is working with the Commission staff to

complete and submit a marsh development permit application for the work and will receive a formal permit with conditions.

## **POLICY**

One more bit of good news. You will remember that Commissioner Gioia asked that BCDC's ART Program staff brief staff from the five petroleum refineries in the East Bay on the results of the Program's Contra Costa project. That will occur later this month and we look forward to a robust discussion.

I want to point out a few things in your packets. First, this is the meeting notice that, immediately following this meeting, the new Commissioner Working Group named "Financing the Future" will meet. You will remember that the formation of this working group is the result of one of the policy recommendations that you approved on October 6th of last year.

Finally, our coalition that has successfully advocated on behalf of increased beneficial reuse of dredged materials has requested that our elected representatives, led by Senators Feinstein and Harris and Representatives Denham and Garamendi, organize a Bay Area delegation effort to ensure that one of the ten beneficial reuse pilot projects to be organized nationwide by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers be located in the Bay Area. In your packet you will find letters to those elected officials and to the Corps requesting just that, along with an article from Scientific American describing the Corps' new authorizing legislation that includes the pilot project authorization.

Third, please do participate in our Commission's strategic planning session in two weeks here at 375 Beale St. We have had a solid kickoff with staff and our consultants, and I think that you will find it – as usual – very stimulating, a bit difficult, and incredibly thought provoking. We shall be inviting both you and your Alternate, and we want each of you to be here, with the public and with our staff.

Oh, finally, I have one more announcement. Your FPPC Form 700s are due on April 1, 2017.

That concludes my report, Chair Wasserman, and I'm happy to answer any questions that may arise.